

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE
WOOD RIVER WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2003
FAIRFIELD, IDAHO**

Chairman Daryle James called the meeting to order with the following in attendance: Carol Blackburn, Roger Parker, Jo Lowe, Chuck Pentzer, Bryan Ravenscroft, Vernon Ravenscroft, Bob Bolte, Joe Schwarzback, Mark Dallan, Bill Davis, Clint Krahn, Dan Kenney, Stephen Thompson, DEQ representatives Mike Etcheverry, Jennifer Claire and Secretary Dana Sturgeon.

Minutes for April 22, 2003 were reviewed. Bob made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Carol seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.

Minutes for August 26, 2003 were reviewed. Carol made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Bob seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.

Daryle presented a memorandum from Dr. Balthasar Buhidar, Ph D., DEQ, concerning the Frost Decree of 1909. This decree deals with the issue of water rights on the Big Wood River and its tributaries in Blaine and Lincoln Counties. Under this decree, the Little Wood River is considered a tributary to the Big Wood River, with its confluence on the Big Wood River where it turns into the Malad River, eventually discharging into the Snake River.

Dr. Buhidar stated in the memorandum that the Attorney General's office has stated that the Frost Decree was written to satisfy the State of Idaho water right concerns and only water right concerns. It has little bearing or jurisdiction on the Federal Clean Water Act or the State's rules and regulations relative to water quality.

He asked that relative to a stream being described or defined as a "dry stream" on a water right decree, how does it affect the Idaho TMDL process? The answer is that it does not affect the Idaho TMDL process.

For a complete copy of additional information that Dr. Buhidar provided in the memo, please contact Dana Sturgeon at 886-2241 or 420-8181 and she will be happy to send you a copy. The memorandum will also be available at the October meeting in Carey.

Roger updated the Board on what has been accomplished setting up the website for the Wood River Watershed. Jo has furnished him with the logo to add to the website. He presently is in need of a mission statement. It was suggested that the by-laws contain information that would be helpful in formulating that statement.

Clint suggested that we postpone going over the by-laws until the next meeting due to the lateness of hour. Vern felt that a committee should be appointed to review the by-laws. Daryle asked that Vern and Bob Bolte review them before the next meeting. Vern was also given the authority to recruit anyone else to help with the review. They will review them before the October meeting and give a report at that time.

Mike Etcheverry attempted to make a 319 presentation. The slide projector would not project the slides so he will make the presentation at the November meeting.

Jo presented two (2) drafts of 319 pre-application grants. One was for the Hulen Meadows Pond Sediment Removal Project. She would like the Wood River Watershed Advisory Group to support Blaine County in this project, as the sediment loading of the Big Wood River is a major factor in its water quality.

Degradation. She feels this would be a good project because the WAG is committed to improving the water quality of the Wood River. The Board will like to review the letter at the next meeting before a commitment is made.

The Nature Conservancy is sponsoring the other grant under the project name of Silver Creek Restoration. It is a 5-year project with an estimated project cost of \$ 5 – \$ 10 million dollars. She felt this was also a deserving project, worthy of support from the WAG.

Mike asked her to e-mail them to the DEQ for review.

Jo mentioned that a nitrate study is being presented on October 14 at 3:00 p.m. at the Blaine County Courthouse. There will also be a wellhead projection presentation in the near future in Hailey at the Courthouse. The date is not known at this time.

The next meeting will be held in Carey at 7:00 P.M. on October 28, 2003. The meeting for November was set for the 25th at 7:00 P.M. in Fairfield.

Daryle James
Chairman